

**Friis, John**

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**From:** Trish Niece [tniece21@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 22, 2009 9:09 AM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** world language graduation requirement

Dear Senator Fasano, Representative Fritz and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Patricia Niece. I am a retired teacher of Spanish, having taught 37 years in New Haven. I am currently the supervisor for foreign language student teachers at Quinnipiac University.

I would urge you to incorporate the requirement for second language study in state mandated graduation requirements. It is certainly obvious that in this interconnected global community the US is woefully behind other countries in the ability of its people to understand the language and culture of other nations. This lack of ability and understanding has serious implications for our nation both economically and politically. The study of another language enhances the mastery one's own language as it leads to sensitivity to the cultures of other countries with whom we must interact in this global economy. Ideally world language study should begin in primary school, as it does in most other developed countries, but at this point we simply urge you to make it mandatory for high school graduation. Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Niece  
Wallingford, CT

2/24/2009